THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the Old Age Pension Scheme, Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary is provided to the destitute aged 65 years or above. The National Old Age Pension Scheme was a component of the National Social Assistance Programme comprising of National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme until the scheme was transferred to the State Plan from the financial year 2002-03. After the transfer of the scheme, the States/ UTs have the requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the scheme. The funds for the scheme are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States by the Central Government. These funds are intended to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in providing social assistance benefits.

Misuse of Government funds by NGOs

2762. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had come to know that many NGOs, who were receiving grants, are utilizing the funds for different purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to blacklist these organizations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. 11 NGOs have been found indulging in not utilising the grant-in-aid for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. Show cause notices were issued to such NGOs seeking clarification for misutilising the funds. After due consideration of explanation received from them, further grant in aid to 8 NGOs were discontinued whereas 3 NGOs have been blacklisted.